

Application No.: 09/466,180
Amendment dated December 20, 2006
Office Action dated June 20, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, and 14-30 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 5 and 13 were previously cancelled. Claims 21, 23, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watkins et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,937,436 (hereinafter "Watkins"). Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshioka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,835,963 (hereinafter "Yoshioka"). Claims 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watkins (5,937,436) in view of Horstmann et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,433 (hereinafter "Horstmann"). Claims 24 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16, 21 and 26 are amended.

Applicants would like to gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication claims 1-14 are allowable in their present form. *See* Office Action dated 6/20/2006, paragraph 9. Applicants also gratefully acknowledge its indication claims 24-25 and 29-30 contain allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action dated 6/20/2006, paragraph 10. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation in a telephone conference that the indication that claim 20 contains allowable subject matter was inadvertently omitted from paragraph 10 the most recent Office Action. *See id.*

To expedite prosecution of this case, independent claim 21 is amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 24 and independent claim 26 is amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 29; therefore, claims 21 and 26 are presently allowable. Furthermore, claim 16 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 21 and 26. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable in its present form. Claims 17-20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, and 30 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Applicants reserve the right to

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pursue the subject matter of pending claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 14-30 in any future continuation applications.

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Conclusion

For at least all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

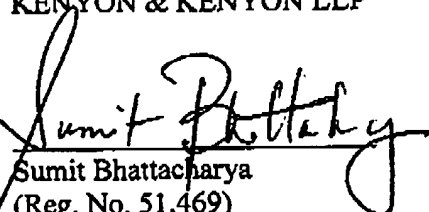
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: December 20, 2006

By:


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